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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

East Timor

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Addendum

1. The present addendum contains the most recent information on political developments in East Timor and the good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

2. Escalating violence in East Timor around the time of the Indonesian general elections, held on 29 May 1997, was reported by the international media.[1] Numerous attacks by pro-independence guerrillas took place in Dili, Baucau, Ermera and Los Palos.[2] On 27 May 1997, rebel forces attacked a polling station, injuring nine civilians.[3] On 28 May 1997, an armed group carrying M-16 assault rifles attacked a police post in the outskirts of Dili, as a result of which, according to Dili authorities, five guerrillas were killed and five police officers were injured.[4] Also on 28 May, four persons, including two police officers, were killed in a guerrilla ambush near Baucau[5]. On 29 May, a member of the Indonesian military was killed while guarding a polling booth.[4] On 30 May, nine soldiers guarding a polling booth in Ermera were killed by the rebels[6]. On 31 May, also near Baucau, rebels launched a grenade attack on a truck carrying 27 Indonesian military and police personnel, killing 18 persons and injuring 9.[7] The international media also reported that numerous polling stations in Dili, Baucau, Ermera and Los Palos had been set on fire between 27 and 29 May.[8] On 6 June 1997, East Timor Police Chief Colonel Yusuf Muharam stated that 130 persons had been arrested in various districts of the Territory and were being questioned in connection with the attacks.[9]

3. On 30 May 1997, the Government of Portugal issued the following press release:

> "The Portuguese Government does not attribute any validity to the electoral act which took place on 29 May in East Timor, resulting from the illegal and forced extension to that Territory of the Indonesia legislative elections.
>
> "The occupation of East Timor, systematically condemned by the relevant bodies of the United Nations, makes abusive and illegitimate any and all attempts to appropriate the genuine collective will of the Timorense People that does not pass through a free process of self-determination, approved by the relevant mechanisms and organs of the United Nations."

4. On 6 June 1997, the Spokesman for the Secretary-General of the United Nations read out the following statement:[10]

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"The Secretary-General has been following with concern reports of recent violent incidents in East Timor which have resulted in loss of life and are causing considerable human suffering. The Secretary-General has called upon all parties concerned to exercise restraint. It may be recalled that the Secretary-General is scheduled to hold meetings with the Foreign Secretaries of Indonesia and Portugal on 19 and 20 June 1997 in New York on the question of East Timor."

Notes

[1] *Reuters*, 27, 28, 30 and 31 May 1997; 2, 4 and 6 June 1997; *Agence France-Presse*, 31 May and 2, 4 and 6 June 1997.

[2] *The Guardian* (London), 30 May 1997.

[3] *Le Monde* (Paris), 30 May 1997.

[4] *The Australian* (Sydney), 2 June 1997.

[5] *The International Herald Tribune*, 31 May 1997.

[6] *Reuters*, 2 June 1997.

[7] *Le Monde* (Paris), 30 May 1997.

[8] *Reuters*, 4 June 1997.

[9] *Agence France-Presse*, 6 June 1997

[10] United Nations press release SG/SM 6248.